

Amendments to the Claims

This list of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A respiratory mask ~~that conforms to N95 performance and other high performance standards in air permeability~~ for improved air circulation, ~~the said~~ respiratory mask ~~having~~ comprising a mask body and a headband for putting ~~on the said~~ respiratory mask to the face of a wearer, ~~the said~~ mask body comprising:

three or more filter layers, each of said layers comprising an outer edge, wherein said outer edges of said three or more layers are joined together such that at least two enclosed volumes are created between adjacent ones of said filter layers; and

one or more spacers, each positioned in a respective one of said at least two enclosed volumes, so as to maintain a minimum spacing between the filter layers defining said enclosed volume;

~~an inside mask;~~

~~an outside mask;~~

~~the inside mask having two or two filter layers;~~

~~the outside mask having two or more filter layers;~~

~~at least one inside spacer inserted between the filter layers of the inside mask to generate space between~~

~~different filter layers of the inside mask; and~~

~~at least one outside mask spacer inserted between the~~

~~filter layers of the outside mask to generate space~~

~~between different filter layers of the outside mask~~

so that when air is discharged by ~~the~~ said wearer, the spacers together with the filter layers provide a pumping effect to blow out carbon dioxide given off by ~~the~~ said wearer to the surroundings and to take in air from the surroundings for ~~the~~ said wearer.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~after a prolonged period of use of the respiratory mask by the wearer, and there is insufficient exchange of exhaled air with the air from the surroundings,~~ the spacer enables the puffing up of the mask when there is insufficient exchange of exhaled air with the air from the surroundings, thereby increasing the size of the respiratory mask so as to provide a visual check on the choking of the mask of the wearer.

Claim 3 (original) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer acts as a semi-rigid supporting frame to prevent the respiratory mask from collapsing during inhalation.

Claim 4 (original) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is of round cross section.

Claim 5 (original) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is of rectangular cross section.

Claim 6 (original) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is of square cross section.

Claim 7 (previously presented) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is an offset tapered concentric ring.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is an offset or non-offset tapered square frame.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is an offset or non-offset tapered diamond frame.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is an offset or non-offset tapered elliptical frame.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the spacer is made by folding ~~two~~ at least one of said filter layers in the cross sectional shape of a dovetail running in parallel across the mask body, either horizontally or vertically or both horizontally and vertically in combination.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 where the respiratory mask ~~has~~ comprises a foam lining on the opening of the respiratory mask to provide air tight sealing to prevent any discharge of contaminants from getting out or into the respiratory mask.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein the respiratory mask ~~has~~ comprises a

neck curtain of sufficient length to cover the neck and any ~~voluminous, thick and stuff beard~~ facial hair of a wearer.

Claim 14 (new) A respiratory mask as claimed in claim 1 wherein said respiratory mask comprises four filter layers and said spacer is positioned between the two inner filter layers.